



177th FIGHTER WING

JERSEY DEVILS



SAFETY AND HEALTH NEWSLETTER

JULY 2004



EYE SAFETY

Some 150,000 disabling eye injuries occur each year. Eye injuries can occur in any operation and in any work area, including offices. All too often we take our eyesight for granted and figure that we'll always have it. We treat our eyes as though we can get replacements. How many home runs could Hank Aaron have hit if he had lost the sight in one or both of his eyes? How well would you be able to do your job if you were blind? There are two important issues to

consider; first, you need to have the proper eye protection, second, you need to **USE IT!**

People who wear glasses usually become so accustomed to them that without much thought they clean them, carry them in their pocket or purse so they are handy, and wear them when they are needed. Unfortunately, few of us are this mindful when it comes to eye protection, and too often we forget it. Some safety glasses and goggles grow dusty from lack of use as their owners trust luck to protect them from an eye injury.

The most common complaint about eye protection is that it's uncomfortable. Protective eye equipment must be carefully fitted and then worn correctly. It may take some time to adjust to wearing goggles or safety glasses, but it will take much longer to adjust to losing your eyesight. If your goggles or glasses give you a headache, adjust the frames or straps or consider a new pair.

Straps used to hold goggles or glasses in place should be adjusted to provide just enough tension to hold them securely. During hot weather, a sweatband will keep perspiration off your goggles or glasses and out of your eyes. Take time to clean your goggles or glasses so they do not interfere with your vision. Don't touch the lenses with your fingers, and keep them away from anything that could scratch or pit them.

Effective eye protection extends beyond keeping bits of debris out of your eyes. If you are working around welding or cutting operations special lenses may be required to protect your eyes from the bright, intense light. Chemicals also pose a hazard to your eyes; make sure you use eye protection and splashguards when handling chemicals. Working on the flightline and around running aircraft.

An assortment of protective eyewear should be available at your local tool room. If for any reason it is not available, contact the Safety Wing Office at X6013 and we will assist you in getting what you need. Those who wear prescription lenses need to contact their supervisor and arrange for procurement of ANSI approved prescription glasses.

All personnel when entering areas where the possibility exists of flying particles need to wear approved eyewear. Goggles are available that will fit over prescription eyewear for those who occasionally must pass through industrial areas, but do not normally work in such areas. If you have any questions please contact the Safety Wing Office at X6013.

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Do you have any safety related topics you would like to see in our publication or have questions, please contact the Wing Safety Office at 6013 or e-mail at Robert.Fusco@njatla.ang.af.mil

NEW CELL PHONE LAW FOR NEW JERSEY

First, the actual law goes into effect until July 1, 2004.

Next, as of now, the statute is a **secondary violation** meaning that you may not be stopped by an officer solely for the cell phone violation. If, however, you are stopped for any motor vehicle violation and you are speaking on a non-hands free cell phone, then, you can be cited for the violation.

Simply, if you are holding a cell phone up to your ear while driving, you are in violation. If you do not have a cell phone with a headset or speakerphone you would have to pull your car over to the side of the road, stop your vehicle and make or receive you call. We have provided the actual motor vehicle statute below for further review. Drive safely, and we hope that this article has cleared things up for you. Oh, please remember that we are not the ones who write the laws.

39:4-97.3 Use of hands-free wireless telephone in moving vehicle; definitions; enforcement.

1. a. **The use of a wireless telephone by an operator of a moving motor vehicle on a public road or highway shall be unlawful except when the telephone is a hands-free wireless telephone**, provided that its placement does not interfere with the operation of federally required safety equipment and the operator exercises a high degree of caution in the operation of the motor vehicle.

b. The operator of a motor vehicle may use a hand-held wireless telephone while driving with one hand on the steering wheel only if:

(1) The operator has reason to fear for his life or safety, or believes that a criminal act may be perpetrated against himself or another person; or

(2) The operator is using the telephone to report to appropriate authorities a fire, a traffic accident, a serious road hazard or medical or hazardous materials emergency, or to report the operator of another motor vehicle who is driving in a reckless, careless or otherwise unsafe manner or who appears to be driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

A hand-held wireless telephone user's telephone records or the testimony or written statements from appropriate authorities receiving such calls shall be deemed sufficient evidence of the existence of all lawful calls made under this paragraph.

As used in this act, "hands-free wireless telephone" means a mobile telephone that has an internal feature or function, or that is equipped with an attachment or addition, whether or not permanently part of such mobile telephone, by which a user engages in a conversation without the use of either hand; provided, however, this definition shall not preclude the use of either hand to activate, deactivate, or initiate a function of the telephone.

"Use" of a wireless telephone shall include, but not be limited to, talking or listening to another person on the telephone.

c. Enforcement of this act by State or local law enforcement officers shall be **accomplished only as a secondary action when the operator of a motor vehicle has been detained for a violation of Title 39 of the Revised Statutes or another offense.**

d. A **person who violates this section shall be fined no less than \$100 or more than \$250.**

e. No motor vehicle points or automobile insurance eligibility points pursuant to section 26 of P.L.1990, c.8 (C.17:33B-14) shall be assessed for this offense.

f. The Chief Administrator of the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission shall develop and undertake a program to notify and inform the public as to the provisions of this act.

L.2003,c.310,s.1.

39:4-97.4 Inapplicability of act to certain officials.

2.The prohibitions set forth in this **act shall not be applicable** to any of the following persons while in the actual performance of their official duties: a law enforcement officer; a member of a paid, part-paid, or volunteer fire department or company; or an operator of an authorized emergency vehicle. L.2003,c.310,s.2.

39:4-97.5 Supersedes, preemption of local ordinances.

3.This act supersedes and preempts all ordinances of any county or municipality with regard to the use of a wireless telephone by an operator of a motor vehicle. L.2003,c.310,s.3.

Boating Under the Influence

BUI is just as deadly as drinking and driving!

Did you know?

- ✧ A boat operator is likely to become impaired more quickly than a driver, drink for drink?
- ✧ The penalties for BUI can include large fines, revocation of operator privileges and serious jail terms?
- ✧ The use of alcohol is involved in about a third of all recreational boating fatalities?



Every boater needs to understand the risks of boating under the influence of alcohol or drugs (BUI). It is illegal to operate a boat while under the influence of alcohol or drugs in every state. The Coast Guard also enforces a federal law that prohibits BUI. This law pertains to ALL boats (from canoes and rowboats to the largest ships) – and includes foreign vessels that operate in U.S. waters, as well as U.S. vessels on the high seas.



Dangers of BUI

Alcohol affects judgment, vision, balance and coordination.

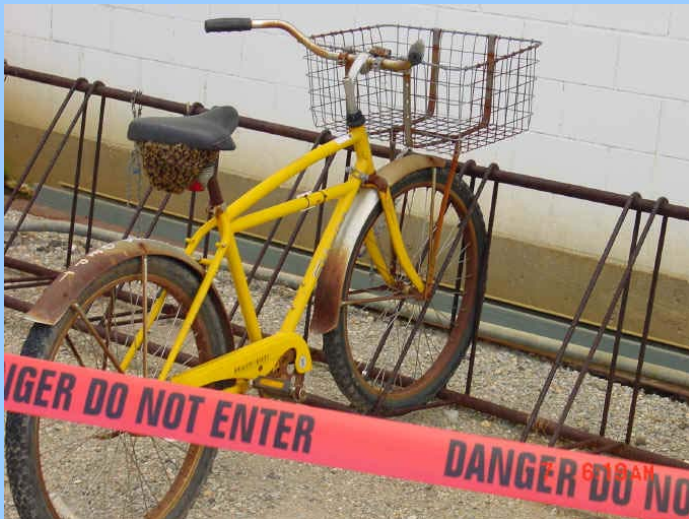
These impairments increase the likelihood of accidents afloat – for both passengers and boat operators. U.S. Coast Guard data shows that in boating deaths involving alcohol use, over half the victims capsized their boats and/or fell overboard. Alcohol is even more hazardous on the water than on land. The marine environment – motion, vibration, engine noise, sun, wind and spray – accelerates a drinker's impairment. These stressors cause fatigue that makes a boat operator's coordination, judgment and reaction time decline even faster when using alcohol.

Alcohol can also be more dangerous to boaters because boat operators are often less experienced and less confident on the water than on the highway. Recreational boaters don't have the benefit of experiencing daily boat operation. In fact, boaters average only 110 hours on the water per year.

Tips for Avoiding BUI

- ✧ Boating, fishing and other water sports are fun in their own right. Alcohol can turn a great day on the water into the tragedy of a lifetime.
- ✧ Consider these alternatives to using alcohol while afloat:
- ✧ Take along a variety of cool drinks, such as sodas, water, iced tea, lemonade or non-alcoholic beer. Bring plenty of food and snacks.
- ✧ Wear clothes that will help keep you and your passengers cool.
- ✧ Plan to limit your trip to a reasonable time to avoid fatigue. Remember that it's common to become tired more quickly on the water.
- ✧ If you want to make alcohol part of your day's entertainment, plan to have a party ashore at the dock, in a picnic area, at a boating club, or in your backyard.... Choose a location where you'll have time between the fun and getting back into your car or boat.
- ✧ If you dock somewhere for lunch or dinner and drink alcohol with your meal, wait a reasonable time (estimated at a minimum of an hour per drink) before operating your boat.
- ✧ Having no alcohol while aboard is the safest way to enjoy the water — intoxicated passengers are also at risk of injury and falls overboard.
- ✧ Spread the word on the dangers of BUI. Many recreational boaters forget that a boat is a vehicle - and that safe operation is a legal and personal responsibility.

Bee is for Bicycle



Imagine walking outside to hop on the shop bicycle for a trip to the other side of the flightline. Just before you plop your bee-hind down on the seat, you stop. "What's that buzzing sound," you wonder. Then, just as you raise your rump, you realize the ruckus is right below you. "Yikes," you yell, as the yellow and black covered beehive hums to life.

It's not exactly where you'd expect to see such a spectacle, and there's no denying that this isn't the best place for a bunch of pollen-pushers to set up shop. But they did, and fortunately this was caught before somebody was stung. If you encounter something like this, your best bet is to do what these folks did. Rope off the area to keep your co-workers from being hurt. Then call the nearest beekeeper.

This summer, remember that objects in your yard such as grills, sheds, wood piles, porches, buckets, overgrown brush, and apparently even bicycles, are the perfect locations to find bees, snakes, rats, spiders, and other creepy critters. These creatures don't care who owns these things, they just settle down where ever they see fit. So before you plop your honey-buns down on your bike, or fire up that grill, or start clearing away those bushes, check for hidden hazards.

POTENTIAL FIRE DANGER OF PLUG-IN AIR FRESHENERS

The SC Johnson Company has voluntary recalled 2.5 million "Glade Extra Outlet Scented Oil Air Fresheners". Both the Consumer Product Safety Commission and SC Johnson have said the air fresheners have been recalled because the manufacturer found a loose connection inside the extra outlet, which could pose a fire hazard.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission has scores of reports from consumers, chronicling fire hazards associated with plug in air fresheners from various manufactures.

WABC'S 7 On Your Side has done some research on these air fresheners and found two instances where air fresheners and suspected in house fires. They found another brand of air freshener "Wallflower" made by the White Barn Candle Company, which were involved in house fires. Despite repeated calls, by 7 On Your Side to White Barn Candle Company, they didn't respond to their request for comment.

The 177th FW Safety Office advises anyone who uses plug in air fresheners and they show any sign of scorching, melting or fire, to unplug them and report it to their local fire department so that they can be investigated.

The SC Johnson Company has a recall line at 800-571-0920 to get a refund or replacement. To see more information on plug in air fresheners visit, 7 On Your Side at, http://abclocal.go.com/wabc/news/7onyourside/wabc_7side_041902fresheners.html

HAZARD ALERT

CPSC, Dorel Juvenile Group USA Announce Recall to Inspect and Replace COSCO® "Rock 'N Roller" Baby Strollers



WASHINGTON, D.C. - The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission announces the following recall in voluntary cooperation with the firm below.

Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed.

Name of product: COSCO® "Rock 'N Roller" Baby Stroller

Units: 300,000

Manufacturer/Importer: Dorel Juvenile Group USA, of Columbus, Ind.

Hazard: If the stop pins are bent or missing or the seat is not fully attached, the seat can partially detach from the frame during use and the infant occupant can be injured in a fall.

Incidents/Injuries: There have been 77 reports of problems related to the stroller seats. Injuries included one child that fell and had a slight concussion and another child that cut his forehead and required stitches. Additionally, there were 46 reports of bumps and bruises.

Description: The COSCO® "Rock 'N Roller" strollers involved have seats that can be removed from the stroller frame. The detached seat can function as a bassinet, or be repositioned on the stroller frame facing front or back. The stroller has a dark blue or green metal frame with four wheels on the front and two wheels on the back. The side folding area of the frame has a white plastic cover that is labeled "Rock 'N Roller by Geoby COSCO®." There is a label on the back of the frame containing one of the following model numbers: "01-654, 01-622, 01-624, 01-646 or 01-656." The seat cover is usually a dark blue or green printed fabric with "COSCO® A Dorel Company" printed on the footrest.

Sold at: Wal-Mart, Kmart, Sears, Toys R Us, Target, JC Penney's, Service Merchandise and other toy and children's furniture stores nationwide from April 1996 through August 2002 for between \$79 and \$179.

Manufactured in: China

Remedy: Consumers should stop using the recalled "Rock 'N Roller" strollers with detachable seats immediately and call the firm to determine how to inspect the stroller for possible replacement.

Consumer Contact: Dorel Juvenile Group at (800) 711-0402 between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. ET Monday through Friday, visit the firm's web site at www.djgusa.com or email mr@djgusa.com **Media Contact:** Catherine Melnicki, (212) 213-4800, Ext. 5063

CPSC, SMC and Home Depot Announce Recall of Oscillating Fans



WASHINGTON, D.C. – In cooperation with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), SMC Marketing Corp., of Grand Prairie, Texas, and Home Depot U.S.A., Inc., of Atlanta, Ga., are voluntarily recalling about 2.2 million "SMC" brand oscillating floor fans. The electric power cord can be damaged by the oscillation motion of the fan. The damage to the cord can result in a short circuit and possible ignition of the plastic case, posing a fire hazard.

CPSC is aware of 31 incidents in which the cord on these fans was damaged, which resulted in smoke and fires. At least nine of these incidents resulted in substantial property damage.

The recall includes 18-inch, pedestal floor fans with model number SR-18 or SP-18. The model number is on the back of the fan beside the on/off button. All of the recalled fans are white with the brand name, "SMC," written on the face plate of the front grill. The Home Depot sold these fans from January 1997 through October 2001 for about \$20. The recalled fans also were sold at other retailers, some of which have gone out of business.

Consumers should stop using the recalled fans immediately and either return them to the Home Depot for a store credit, or contact SMC Marketing Corp. for instructions on receiving a refund. The Home Depot will accept all recalled fans. For information on receiving a refund, consumers should contact SMC Marketing Corp. toll-free at (800) 527-3675 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. CT Monday through Friday. For more information about store returns, consumers can call Home Depot toll-free at (800) 553-3199 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. ET Monday through Friday. Recall information also is available at the Home Depot's Web site:

www.homedepot.com

The Home Depot is a major retailer and importer of these fans. These fans were supplied by Shell Electric Manufacturing (China) Co. Ltd. SMC Marketing Corp. represents Shell Electric Manufacturing (China) Co. Ltd. in the United States.